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Mr. T. C. Cheriyan (Member, Travancore and Cochin Christian Association, Kottayam) prayed for the appointment of a commission, consisting of members of the different sections of the Christian community to enquire into and report on the system of inheritance obtaining among them in view to a law being eventually passed on the subject. In regard to the diversity in the general law applicable to all Christians, referred to in the Dewan's reply in the previous year, he said that the diversity alleged to exist was not very vital and that if a commission be appointed, it was not unlikely that a *modus vivendi* might be found which would satisfy all the classes. It was not desirable that, in a State of such limited dimensions, with so many creeds and classes, the minor differences in the system of inheritance should be perpetuated by the legislature. The member added that his Association was of opinion that a uniform code was possible and desirable.

Mr. C. Mathew (Member, Kartigapalli Taluk) supported the representation.

Dewan's reply.—While in the case of the Nayars, the spokesmen of that community have made definite suggestions, which constitute a ground for Government to go upon and enquire into; in regard to the Christians, we have only the suggestion that *if* a Committee be appointed, perchance they *may* be able to find out some matters on which legislation *may* be necessary. No definite proposals have been put forward. Government cannot appoint a committee for a vague purpose. Government sympathise with the wishes of any community in matters of this kind, but you should consult one another and come to some understanding in regard to a few matters at least, in regard to which all the different sects agree and then Government will go to your help. As matters now stand, Government will not be justified in appointing a committee and I have to repeat the same answer that was given from this place last year, *viz.*, that the community must first settle for themselves, at least in a general way, what they want.

17. *Acquisition by Government of Jenmis' rights over their lands and settlement of Kudiyans' liabilities on equitable basis.*

Mr. T. R. Narayana Pillai (Member, Ettumanur Taluk) said that Kudiyans were experiencing much suffering at the hands of the Jenmis; that the existing Regulation V of 1071 has not defined clearly the rights and liabilities of either party nor has it recorded the custom of the country in regard to the proprietory dues payable to the Jenmis; that, in consequence, the Jenmis were exacting numerous dues on various pretexts; that section 8 of the Regulation was hard and unjust; that while enhanced pattom

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was being levied in case the produce increased under the improvements effected by the tenants, no abatement was being allowed in case of diminution and that the Regulation was not of help to the tenants in adjusting the claims; that renewals of Kanapattom were being effected as best suited the Jenmis' interests; that the Kanom carried a very low rate of interest while a very high rate was being realised on the Jenmis' dues and that the Regulation was helping the Jenmis in that direction. He detailed other cases in which the tenants were being deprived of their just claims and requested that Government take steps to acquire, on payment of compensation, the rights of Jenmis over their lands, settle the custom of the country with reference to the statements received from the Jenmis by the Jenmi and Tenant commissioners and adjust the Kudiyans' liabilities on an equitable basis.

The Assembly adjourned at 2 P. M. for an hour's interval and met again at 3 P. M.

18. *Amendment of the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation.*

Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) proposed the following changes in the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation :—

(*a*) That michavarom might be made payable at the Sirkar rate of 11 chuckrams per para ; (*b*) that claim for arrears of michavarom for more than three years might be made unenforceable ; (*c*) that the Kudiyan might be allowed to take only one document for all properties of the same class belonging to the same Jenmi ; (*d*) that Olappanam, Oppudoosi, Sakshi, Tirunalkalcha, Perunal chumadu, Varakoppu, Tirunalkoppu, Onakalcha and the like might be abolished ; (*e*) that three-fourths of the price of the ground might be granted to the tenant when the holding is acquired by Government ; (*f*) that the tenant might be allowed the right to demand remission of rent due on his Jenmom land in case of partial or total failure of crops ; (*g*) that the enjoyment of different parts of a holding by different members or branches of a Tarawad or by persons claiming under them might be recognised by the Jenmi and that the enjoyer thereof might be made liable to pay a proportionate share of the michavarom, renewal fees, &c. ; (*h*) that the Kudiyan might be entitled to valuable trees of spontaneous growth and empowered to fell them without the consent of the Jenmi ; and (*i*) that the agricultural facilities given to the ryots might be given to the Kudiyans also.

The member dealt with points (*e*), (*f*) and (*h*) and requested that an enquiry might be started to ascertain the

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